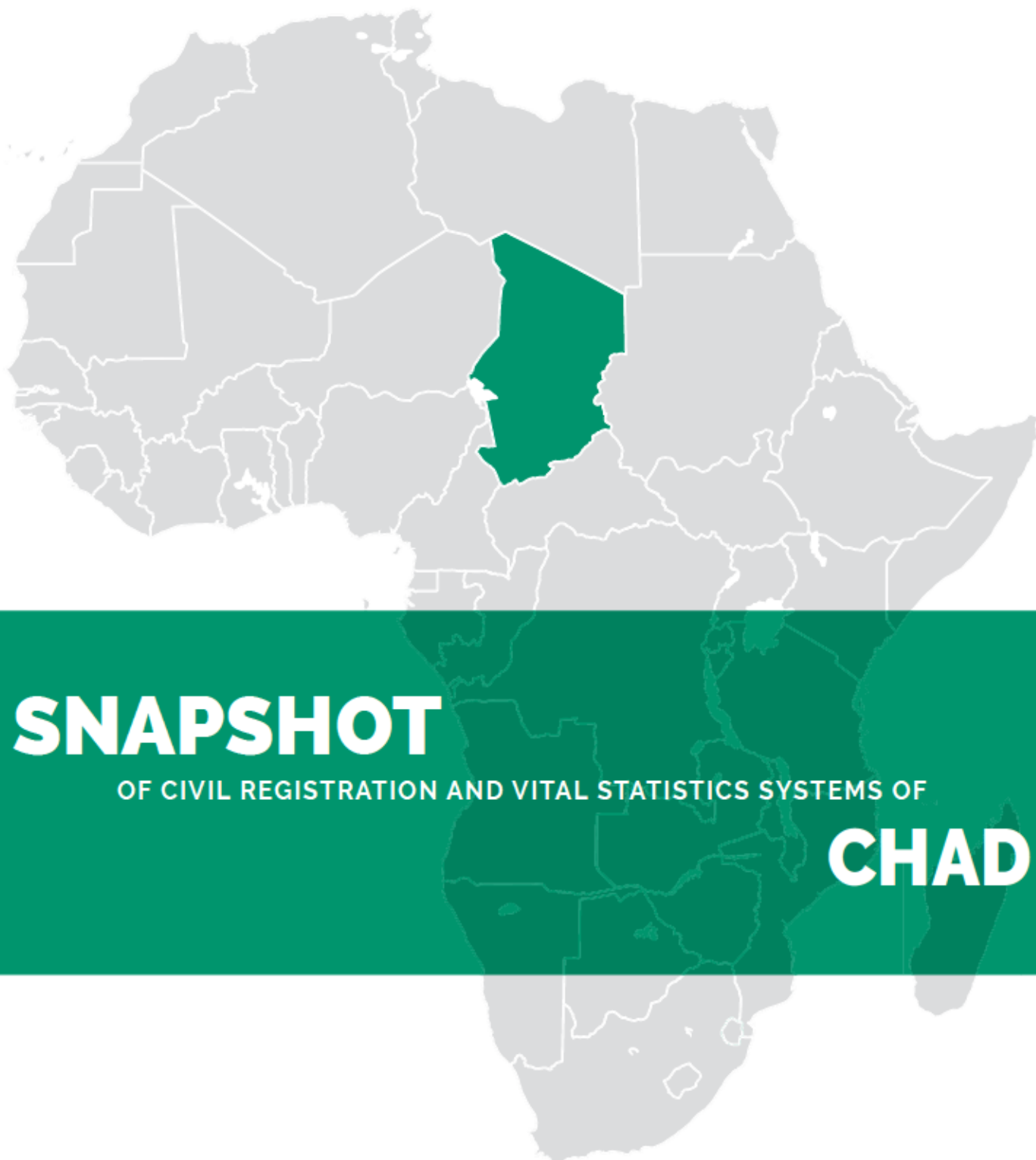




CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
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SNAPSHOT

OF CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEMS OF

CHAD



ECA

Program information

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Housed at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Centre of Excellence for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Systems is a global knowledge and resource hub that actively supports national efforts to develop, strengthen, and scale-up CRVS systems. It collaborates with organizations and experts to broker access to information and expertise, including global standards, tools, research evidence, and relevant good practice.

The Centre of Excellence was established with funding from Global Affairs Canada and IDRC and contributes directly to the work of the Global Financing Facility, a key financing platform of the UN Secretary General's Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health.

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Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief overview of the civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) system in the Republic of Chad.

Among other things, this report presents:

- Background information on the country;
- Selected indicators relevant to CRVS improvement;
- Stakeholders' activities; and
- Resources available and needed to strengthen CRVS systems.

The information was collected through a questionnaire completed by the National Secured Titles Agency (ANATS) and Direction for Political Affairs and Civil Status (DAPEC) in July 2020. It was supplemented by a desk review of available documents.

Brief country profile

The Republic of Chad is a landlocked country in north-central Africa. It is bordered by Libya to the north, Sudan to the east, the Central African Republic to the south, Cameroon to the southwest, Nigeria to the southwest (at Lake Chad), and Niger to the west. Chad has several regions: a desert zone in the north, an arid Sahelian belt in the centre, and a more fertile Sudanian savannah zone in the south. Chad is home to over 200 ethnic and linguistic groups. The country attained independence in 1960. Between 1990 and 2010, the population more than doubled: from 5.96 million to 11.96 million.

Since 2012, Chad has been divided into 23 regions as a result of the 2003 decentralization process, when the government abolished the previous 14 prefectures. Each region is headed by a governor who is appointed by the president. Prefects administer the 61 departments in the regions. The departments are divided into 200 sub-prefectures, which are in turn composed of 446 cantons.

Chad



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

The cantons are scheduled to be replaced by *communautés rurales* (rural communities), but the legal and regulatory framework has not yet been completed.

- Land area: 1,284,000 km²
- Population: 16,244,513 (estimated),¹ with an annual growth rate of 3 percent²
- Capital city: N'Djamena
- Official working languages: Arabic and French
- Ministry responsible for civil registration: Minister of Territorial Administration and Local Governance
- Civil registration agency: Direction for Political Affairs and Civil Status (DAPEC)
- National identity agency: National Secured Titles Agency (ANATS)
- National statistical office: National Institute of Statistics, Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED)

CRVS dimensions

Births	
Completeness of birth registration ³	12% (2015) ⁴
Children under 5 years of age whose births were reported as registered	12% (2015) ⁵
Births attended by skilled health personnel	20% (2016) ⁶
Women aged 15–49 who received antenatal care from a skilled provider	31% (2015) ⁷
DPT1 immunization coverage among 1-year-olds ⁸	41% (2019) ⁹
Crude birth rate (per 1,000 population)	42 (2018) ¹⁰
Total fertility rate (live births per woman)	5.7 (2018)
Adolescent fertility rate (per 1,000 girls aged 15–19 years)	157.9 (2017)
Population under age 15 years	Not available
Institutional deliveries: percentage of deliveries in a health facility	22% (2015)
Deaths	
Completeness of death registration (adults only)	Not available
Crude death rate (per 1,000 population)	12.1 (2020) ¹¹
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	72 (2015) ¹²
Under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	114 (2017) ¹³
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)	860 (2015) ¹⁴
Marriages and divorces	
Marriage registration rate	Not available
Women aged 20–24 first married or in union before age 15	Not available
Women aged 20–24 first married or in union before age 18	Not available
Divorce registration rate	Not available
Vital statistics including causes-of-death data	
Compilation and dissemination of civil registration–based statistics	Not available
Medically certified causes of death	Not available

Civil registration system

For 51 years, the Republic of Chad's public civil registry service has been governed by a legal framework consisting of Order 03/INT/ADG of 02 June 1961 regulating civil society in Chad. Other related legislation is:

- Ordinance 10/INT/ADG/61 of 04 September 1961; and
- Law 38/INT/66 of 09 December 1966 modifying the law of Ordinance No. 10.

These legal instruments are completed by the legal framework of civil status in Chad: Decree 399/PR/MISD/97 of 10 December 1997. This decree specifies the Direction for Political Affairs and Civil Status' (DAPEC) mission as the main institution responsible for civil registration in Chad. Order 007/MISP/SE/DG/98 lays out how to apply Decree 399.

However, 51 years after this law was enacted, the legal framework has experienced problems, as it did not envision the creation of an electronic system for civil registration.

Legislative framework

Civil registration and identification legislation are stipulated under Law 008/PR/2013 (10 May 2013) on the organization of civil registration in the Republic of Chad.

Law 006/PR/2020 of 20 May 2020, ratifying Ordinance 002 on the organization of the civil status system in Chad, covers the entire territory as well as refugees.

Management, organization, and operations

The ministries responsible for the registration of vital events and identification are:

- Ministry of Public Health;
- Ministry of Public Security and Immigration;
- Ministry of Justice; and
- Ministry of Territorial Administration and Local Governance.

These are the official authorities for registering all vital events:

- Minister of Territorial Administration and Local Governance;
- DAPEC;
- Municipal mayors of the communes and of the borough;
- Presidents of rural councils;
- Army officers;
- Ambassadors and consuls in diplomatic representations in Chad and abroad; and
- Deputies and alternates designated in writing by the holders.

The National Secured Titles Agency (ANATS), under the supervision of the Ministry of Public Security and Immigration, is responsible for the issuance of national IDs and securities to allow the Chadian population access to reliable, secure, and above all tamper-proof civil status documents.

National CRVS systems coordination mechanisms

In-country coordination mechanisms have not been formalized.

Administrative-level registration centres

Civil registration offices are found in municipalities, districts, key places in rural communities, and diplomatic representations such as embassies and consulates. The number of civil registration offices and registrars was not provided.

Accessibility of civil registration services

Most facilities are in urban centres, near hospitals or clinics. People living in rural communities may need to travel more than 10 km to the closest facility.

Registration of vital events

Law 008/PR/2013 on the organization of civil status in the Republic of Chad ensures that "the state of persons is established and can only be proved by the acts of civil status." Article 10 of this law ensures mandatory birth and death declarations, and article 12 ensures that declarations are free of charge. In accordance with Law 008, all births occurring on national territory must be declared to the civil registry centre of the place of birth within one month, based on a verbal statement from the parents, one of the ascendants, or any person who attended the birth. If a birth is not declared within the time limit, article 25 stipulates that a judgement must be given in the case by the court of first instance of the place of birth.

The universal and compulsory nature of civil status records is governed by Ordinance 3/INT/ADG/1961, which states that on the territory of the Republic of Chad, the civil status records of Chadian nationals are established, received, and recorded in the conditions stipulated therein.

The Constitution of 1996, revised by Law 08/PR/2005, stipulates in article 158 that all foreigners legally admitted to Chadian territory have the same rights and freedoms, excluding political rights, as Chadians. From this it can be concluded

that acts of births, marriages, and deaths of foreigners legally residing in Chad follow the same procedures that apply to nationals.

Official authorities in charge of registering births are DAPEC, municipal mayors of communes and the borough, presidents of rural councils, army officers, ambassadors and consuls in diplomatic representations in Chad and abroad, and deputies and alternates designated in writing by the holders. The organizational structure is decentralized.

Events covered by the civil registration system are listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Events covered by the civil registration system.

Vital event	Is the event covered?	Are definitions aligned to UN suggested definitions?
Live birth	Yes	Yes
Death	Yes	Yes
Marriage	Yes	Yes
Divorce	Yes	Yes
Adoption	Yes	Yes

The legal framework for **birth registration** in Chad is established by Ordinance 3/INT/ADG/1961 regulating civil status in the territory. The ordinance should be read in conjunction with:

- Organic Law 2/PR/2000, on the statutes of decentralized local authorities;
- Law 7/PR/2002, laying down the statutes of rural communities;
- Order 17/1985, on the organization of municipalities in the medium term; and
- Law 33/PR/2006, on the distribution of competences between the state and decentralized local authorities.

This requires adding the ordinances and decrees creating and reorganizing the departments, sub-prefectures, and certain decentralized local authorities.

The father, mother, an ascendant, or any person who attended the birth are mandated declarants for birth registration (Law 008/PR/2013, art. 25).

Requirements for birth registration include:

- Verbal declaration from the father, mother, an ascendant, or any person attending the birth;
- Identity document, passport, or birth certificate of the father, mother, or declarant;
- Marriage certificate, if possible; and
- Birth certificate for births in health facilities.

The key data elements collected at birth registration include:

- **Child:** name, date of birth, date of registration, location of the event, place of declaration, and sex;
- **Mother of the child:** date of birth or age, place/country of birth, occupation, and domicile; and
- **Father of the child:** date of birth or age, place/country of birth, occupation, and domicile.

In the event of a **death**, an official death certificate is issued to the family of the deceased after registration. The mandated legal informant to register a death is the surviving spouse, ascendants or descendants, close relatives of the deceased, or any person who has the precise information on the civil status of the deceased. One month is allowed for registration, as stipulated in Law 008/PR/2013, art. 40.

No fee is paid at registration and no penalties are charged for late registration. However, hospital administrative fees are charged on a case-by-case basis.

Registration requirements or fees are not specific to the deaths of residents in the country and those of foreign nationality. Declarants must have a medical death certificate, identification card, and birth certificate to facilitate death registration.

Key data collected at death registration include:

- Name, sex, date of birth or age, and place of usual residence of the deceased; and
- Date of death registration, place of death, place of registration, cause of death, certifier, place of occurrence type (hospital, home, etc.).

In the case of fetal death, when a stillborn child is declared, the declaration is to be entered into the death register and into the birth register: a lifeless child is declared without a presumption of whether the child had lived (Law 008/PR/2013).

A death certificate is required for inheritance and to obtain social assistance.

The declarants responsible for registering a **marriage** are the bride and groom. The age of civil majority is 21 years. The draft Code of Persons and Family sets the legal age of marriage at 18 years for boys and 17 years for girls, rather than 15 years, as in the Civil Code. However, under customary law, the age of marriage is implicitly fixed at 13 years. There is no legal obligation to register marriages. An official marriage certificate is issued when a marriage is registered.

The stipulated time allowed for registration is

- 10 to 30 days for the publication of the banns; and
- 2 months after publication of the banns or 2 months after the customary and religious celebration to register the celebration.

There are no fees for marriage registration, the marriage certificate, or late registration. However, official fees involved in the marriage registration process include filing fees, which vary by civil registration centre and the day of celebration: for example, if Friday is the wedding day and a celebration request is made only a week in advance, the fee is higher. Additional registration requirements or fees depend on whether one spouse was born outside the country or has dual citizenship.

The requirements for marriage registration include:

- Copies of the following documents:
 - Birth certificate;
 - Any waivers;
 - Identity documents of each of the prospective spouses and their respective witnesses;
 - Statement of the amount of the agreed dowry or the dowry non-payment agreement;
 - Medical prenuptial certificate attesting that the future spouses were examined for consent to marriage; and
 - Marriage contract defining the chosen property regime (Law 008/PR/2013, art. 30).
- Information about the spouses and the marriage:
 - Date of birth (or age) of the bride, usual place of residence of the bride, date of birth (or age) of the groom, occupation and domicile of each spouse, spouses' CIN (unique ID) numbers, names of the parents of the bride and groom; and
 - Date of registration of the marriage, place of occurrence, place of registration, matrimonial regime, dispensations of age, witnesses' names and CIN numbers, mention of the payment of the dowry, and choice of matrimonial regime.

Fees

There is no fee to register vital events. There is, however, a fee for late or delayed registration.

Table 2: Fees for issuing vital events certificates.

Vital event	Remarks
Birth	Cost is attached to reissue of the certificate
Marriages	Cost is attached to reissue of the certificate
Divorces	Cost is attached to reissue of the certificate
Death	Cost is attached to reissue of the certificate

Backlog of unregistered births

No information was provided.

Sample registration forms

Registration forms are processed manually (on paper). All vital events are directly recorded on non-standardized forms: fields are filled in manually in cursive writing, which makes it impossible to scan them using optical character recognition. However, some civil registration centres in the capital that have received computers enter the information using software designed for this purpose.

Samples of registration forms and certificates can be found on the UNICEF Chad website:

- [Birth certificate](#)
- [Marriage certificate](#)
- [Death certificate](#)

Vital statistics system

Vital statistics

The National Institute of Statistics, Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED), which falls under the supervision of the Ministry in Charge of Planning, was created by Decree 416/PR/MPED/2000 of 14 September 2000. Its mission is to collect, use, analyze, and disseminate statistical information of national interest. Under the coordination of the National Statistical System within the framework of the Secretariat of the Higher Statistics Council and the Presidency of the Committee for Statistical Programs, INSEED's role is to perform statistical operations provided for in the National Statistics Program and carry out studies at the request of the state, private institutions, or other bodies on economic, demographic, social, and environmental issues related to statistics.

INSEED collects and compiles vital statistics. INSEED and the Directorate of Civil Politics and Civil Registry have envisaged creating cards that will enable civil status data to be collected from populations. This approach reflects the country's commitment to involve INSEED directly in preparing statistical data on civil status. Despite their fragmented nature, the estimated data on civil status reveal the scale of the tasks to be done at all levels to strengthen civil state management.

However, the legislation on civil registration does not contain clear provisions on collecting and publishing vital statistics, while the law on national statistics provides for the collection, compilation, and dissemination of vital statistics based on civil registers. Despite INSEED's existence, the collection of vital statistics remains poor.

Coverage and completeness

Registration of vital events currently covers all segments of the population and all geographic areas in the country. Completeness of registration of vital events was last estimated in 2016 (see Table 3).

Table 3: Current level of completeness of registration of vital events in the country.

Vital event	Completeness of registration – 2016 ¹⁵
Live birth	12%
Marriage	12%
Divorce	12%
Death	12%

Causes of death

Cause-of-death information collected through the civil registration system is listed in Table 4.

Table 4: Cause-of-death information collected through the civil registration system.

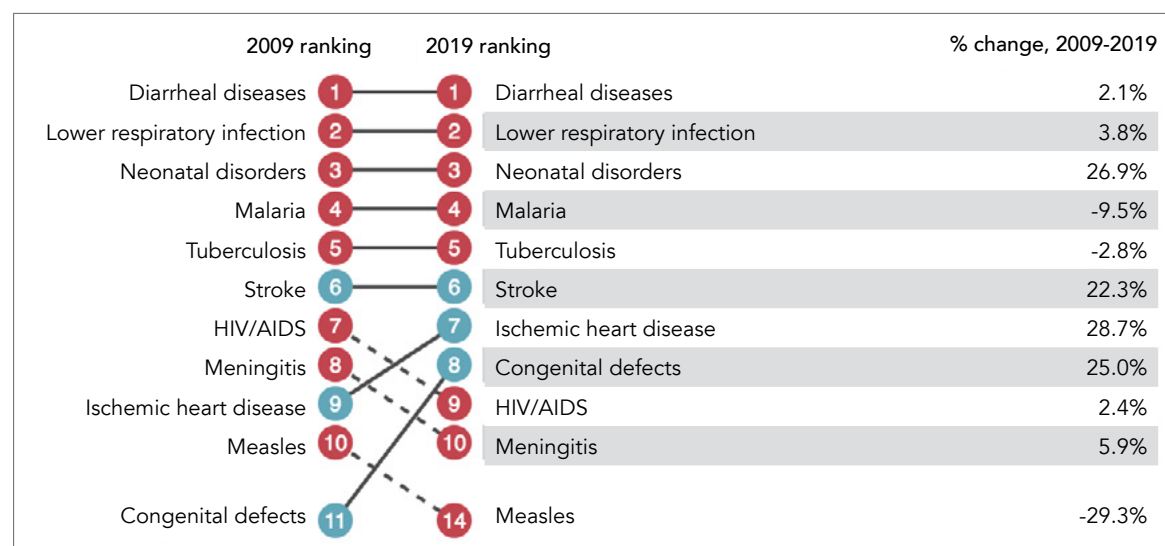
Cause of death	Is cause of death information collected through the civil registration system?
For deaths occurring in health facilities	Yes
For natural deaths occurring in the communities	Yes
For non-natural deaths occurring in the communities	Yes

For non-institutional deaths, verbal autopsy tools or methods are not used to collect cause-of-death information. The cause of death is coded according to the International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th revision (ICD-10). The *Birth and Death Registration Act* requires all deaths to be medically certified, regardless of where they occurred.

No reports have been published on causes-of-death statistics based on the vital registration system. However, other sources indicate the infant mortality rate at 69.1 deaths per 1,000 live births.¹⁶

The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation highlights the most common causes of death between 2009 and 2019 (Figure 1).¹⁷

Figure 1: Most common causes of death in 2019 and percentage change, 2009–2019.



According to the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation 2017 report, diarrheal diseases remain the leading cause of death and premature death for all ages. Communicable, neonatal, nutritional, and non-communicable diseases and injuries were the next leading causes of death and premature death in 2017.

Digitization

ANATS is responsible for organizing and maintaining the secure system and issuing related documents. The agency also manages other documents, such as passports and identity cards.

Computerization

The computerization of the civil status system is entrusted to ANATS. Computer use in CRVS is outlined in Table 5.

Table 5: Computer use for registering civil status facts.

Centre	Are computers used for civil registration?
Local registrars	Yes
Urban centres	Yes
Healthcare facilities	Yes

Mobile technology application

No information was provided.

Unique identification number

No information was provided.

Civil status and civil identity are managed by the National Biometric Population Register. The Integrated Population Management System and Secured Titles (SIGPTS)¹⁸ has a biometric deduplication mechanism based on more than 15 million individuals, with the ability to compare 1 in N for a response in 10 seconds. ANATS has the overall mission of setting up SIGPTS. The aim

is to guarantee the reliability, integrity, security, and protection of individuals' personal data. This integrated management system was officially launched on 22 January 2020 to allow better modernization of the civil status system in Chad.

With SIGPTS, ANATS can enroll all people in the National Biometric Population Register using the biographical and biometric data of each individual and assigning them a unique national identification number. This guarantees the uniqueness of the individual so that no one can appear more than once on the national register. Enrollment is free and compulsory. Any registered person can, upon request, receive a secure, tamper-proof birth certificate after registering.

Link with identification system

ANATS, which was created by Ordinance 001/PR/2016 of 29 March 2016, is responsible for the Chad Identification System under the supervision of the Ministry of Public Security and Immigration. It was created as part of the desire for reform, which consists of improving the quality of services provided to citizens through modernizing and rationalizing state resources with a view to security.

This mission was developed in consultation with the administrations concerned to

- ensure the registration and updating of citizens' and foreigners' (residents or those passing through Chad) identification information;
- set up an information system that guarantees the reliability, integrity, and security of this information; and
- personalize and produce secured notes by implementing a reliable, secure, extensible SIGPTS.

The agency is implementing a system to identify and secure national documents. By design, this system is based on the National Biometric Population Register.

Features of the integrated system include:

- An application that makes it possible to trace suspected criminals from the processing of fingerprints or palm prints collected at crime scenes;
- A device for authenticating individuals and controlling and verifying the titles acquired to enable each administration concerned to fully perform its mission; and
- A component needed to manage migratory flows and the fight against crime, terrorism, and illegal trafficking.

Data protection and data privacy

Data protection is stipulated under Law 007/PR/2015 of 10 February 2015. The aim of this law is to put in place a mechanism to protect people's private and professional lives after the collection, processing, transmission, storage, and use of personal data, subject to the protection of public order.

Developments in information and communications technology pose new challenges in protecting personal data. The law establishes a certain number of guarantees to fight against attacks on individual and private freedoms. On the one hand, it establishes the guiding principles for processing personal data and, on the other hand, determines the rights of the person whose data is processed. It also specifies the obligations of the data controller and the processor.¹⁹

This legislation provides for the creation of alert systems, a code of conduct, sanctions, and remedies put in place by the National Agency for IT Security and Electronic Certification (ANSICE). The transitional provisions specify that the data in progress on behalf of the state will be subject to a declaration to ANSICE as soon as it comes into force.²⁰

Interface with other sectors and operations

Refugee management

To best respond to the risks of statelessness in Chad, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Ministry of Public Security and Immigration — through DAPEC and within the framework of the Support for Citizenship and Prevention of Statelessness project — work to better protect children's rights by offering support and practical solutions. One of these solutions is the work of community volunteers – or relays – in the refugee camps in Bagasola, in the province of Lac.

Community relays are men and women community volunteers who support UNHCR and DAPEC in identifying newborns and collecting information to draw up birth certificates. They live on-site and know the daily realities of the living environment. They educate community members to respect the direct procedure, which consists of declaring births within one month, as required by Law 008/PR/2013. These announcements are made in mosques, during sermons, and at funerals and newborn baptism ceremonies.

Community relays are found at the beginning of the procedure chain to ensure that refugee and displaced/returned children from sites around the Dar es Salaam camp are registered for a birth certificate.

- During the baptism ceremony or just after it, the community relays get closer to the parents of the newborn to collect all the information needed for the child's birth certificate.
- This information, which is generally collected in Arabic using the birth declaration forms that are given to the relays, is immediately retrieved by the DAPEC focal point.
- The latter sends all the forms to the civil status officer, who transcribes the information in French into the birth register, then submits it for the signature of the sub-prefect of Baga Sola rural.
- Once all the documents have been signed, the DAPEC focal point collects them from the rural sub-prefecture and returns to the site to distribute them to the parents of the children concerned, with the help of the community relays. In the Dar es Salaam refugee camp, the National Commission for the Reception and Reintegration of Refugees and Repatriates and the health centre are involved in filling out birth declarations, which serve as birth certificates for the rest of the procedure.

The involvement of community relays shortens the path for parents, so they do not have to initiate the administrative procedures themselves. Cheik Saleh, a traditional representative and a community relay for the Dar Nahim 1 site, explains his motivation: "I work for the well-being of my community by making it easier to obtain birth certificates for newborns. It is important that each child who is born has a document for a more fulfilling existence." These community actors ensure that all births are registered, thereby establishing legal proof of parentage and place of birth.²¹

Improvement initiatives and external support

Improvement plan and budget

The strategic plan for 2018 to 2022 outlines the approach and direction to improve the CRVS system in Chad. The plan provides an integrated picture of how the CRVS system is going to develop over the five years and demonstrates the themes, objectives, initiatives, and allocation of resources in response to CRVS opportunities and challenges. This strategic plan forms the basis for performance management, to be conducted formally every quarter.

Budgetary allocations and requirements

The total budget for the approved five-year strategic plan was not provided. The average total annual amount required to implement initiatives is US\$362,402. To date, the government has provided most of the funding to implement the strategic plan.

Activities identified as high priorities

Some upcoming priorities for the country or the civil registration office's planning cycle include massive enrollment of the population in the National Biometric Population Register and raising awareness among the population of the importance of civil registration.

Support from development partners

The development partners that have provided support to Chad's CRVS systems improvement initiative are listed in Table 6 below.

Table 6: CRVS external support.

International organizations, NGOs, and partners	Mandate
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Scaling up birth registration through mobile campaigns in remote areas and hospital-based registration; development of a CRVS strategic plan
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa	Technical support

Conclusion

The Republic of Chad's civil registration and identity system is further reinforced by strong government leadership and a belief in the value of strong systems. The government is working to find solutions to improve this vital planning service for development programs and to improve the system of recording civil status facts. Two of the activities that have been completed are:²²

- A National Civil Status Strategy has been developed; and
- A draft law on the organization of civil status in Chad is being adopted. Adoption by the National Assembly and a good governance support program will support the institutions in charge of civil status.

Chad would like to achieve more effective and efficient coordination among key national stakeholders at the country level through pooling the efforts of the actors involved in the civil status system.

Resources

Websites

Ministry of Public Security and Immigration,
National Agency for Secure Titles (ANATS):
anats.td

National Institute of Statistics, Economic and
Demographic Studies: inseed.td

Additional materials

UNICEF. 2009. Chad: Evaluation of the civil
status system (birth registration in Chad). [unicef.
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- 15 Civil registration completeness means the actual number of registered events (births or deaths) divided by the estimated number of vital events (births or deaths). Complete registration or 100 percent completeness has been achieved when every vital event that has occurred to the members of the population of a country (or area), in a specified time period, has been registered in the system.
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